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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/690,970	10/23/2003	Kazuhiro Ichikawa	Q78077	4728
72875	7590	11/15/2007	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20037			ALMATRAHI, FARIS S	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		4137		
		NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
		11/15/2007	ELECTRONIC	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

USPTO@sughrue.com  
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USPatDocketing@sughrue.com

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/690,970	ICHIKAWA ET AL.
	Examiner Faris Almatrahi	Art Unit 4137

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 October 2003.  
 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/23/2003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Status of the Application***

1. **Claims 1-17** are pending in this application.
2. If applicant is aware of any prior art or any co-pending application not already on record, the applicant is reminded of his/her duty under 37 C.F.R §1.56 to disclose the same.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claims 1-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sato et al. (US Patent No. 7,158,946 B2).
5. Regarding claims 1 and 10, Sato discloses a system and method that manages accounting with respect to image formation by an image formation device, which uses a recording agent from a recording agent cartridge having a storage element to form an

image including letters and characters on a medium like paper, said accounting process method comprising the steps of:

- a. Acquiring accounting information, the accounting information including cartridge information with regard to said recording agent cartridge, which is stored in the storage element of said recording agent cartridge, and image formation information with regard to image formation carried out by said image formation device with the recording agent from said recording agent cartridge (Abstract, Column 14 lines 8-35, Column 21 lines 39-53).
- b. Computing a charge, based on the acquired cartridge information and image formation information (Column 14 lines 8-35).

6. Regarding claims 2 and 11, Sato discloses a system and method wherein the cartridge information includes reuse information regarding reuse of a main body and components of said recording agent cartridge (Column 22 lines 24-35), and said charge computation module computes the charge, based on the reuse information. (Column 22 lines 21-35).

7. Regarding claims 3-4 and 12-13, Sato discloses a system and method wherein said charge computation module computes the charge in such a manner as to lower the charge with an increase in frequency of reuse and number of reused components among all the components of said recording agent cartridge (Column 3 lines 13-24, Column 22 lines 5-35; cycle of reuse/recycle can be managed by the cartridge management system to adjust charge based on frequency and reuse).

8. Regarding claims 5 and 14, Sato discloses a system and method wherein the image formation information includes a numerical quantity of image formation, and said charge computation module computes the charge in such a manner as to lower the charge with an increase in numerical quantity of image formation (Abstract, Column 21 lines 38-64).

9. Regarding claims 6-7 and 15, Sato discloses a system and method wherein said information acquisition module acquires the image formation information from the storage element of said recording agent cartridge (Figure 12, Column 6 lines 26-48).

10. Regarding claims 8 and 16, Sato discloses a system and method wherein said information acquisition module acquires the cartridge information and the image formation information, which are stored in the storage element of said recording agent cartridge attached to said image formation device, from said image formation device connecting with said accounting management apparatus via a communication line (Figure 10, Column 3 lines 54-56).

11. Regarding claims 9 and 17, Sato discloses a system and method wherein multiple recording agent cartridges are attached to said image formation device, and said charge computation module computes the charge, based on multiple pieces of the cartridge information acquired from respective storage elements of said multiple recording agent cartridges attached to said image formation device (Abstract, Figure 10, Column 3 lines 54-56, Claims 6 and 11).

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faris Almatrahi whose telephone number is (571) 270-3326. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Akm Ullah can be reached on (571) 272-2361. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Faris Almatrahi  
Examiner  
Art Unit 4137

FA

  
AKM ULLAH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER